

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Currently amended) ~~An energy absorber according to claim 1~~ An energy absorber for absorbing energy of a vehicle or component of a vehicle or occupant of the vehicle in a crash situation so as to allow relatively gradual deceleration of the vehicle, component or occupant, the energy absorber including a first part, a second part and an elongate deformable member secured to the first part and extending through a deforming arrangement carried by the second part, whereby said elongate deformable member normally acts as a tie between said first part and said second part but wherein the arrangement is such that, when the force acting between said first part and said second part in a predetermined direction exceeds a predetermined amount, said elongate deformable member is thereby forced progressively through said deforming arrangement as the distance between said first part and said second part changes and the deformable member is thereby forced to undergo plastic deformation, whereby energy is absorbed, and wherein said deforming arrangement is such as to effect such plastic deformation substantially without changing the material cross sectional area of the deformable member, and wherein said deforming arrangement includes at least one roller, bearing on said elongate deformable member and rotatable about an axis transverse to the direction of elongation of the deformable member, and further includes an opposing member and

wherein a flattened portion of said elongate deformable member extends between said roller and said opposing member.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) ~~An energy absorber according to claim 1~~ An energy absorber for absorbing energy of a vehicle or component of a vehicle or occupant of the vehicle in a crash situation so as to allow relatively gradual deceleration of the vehicle, component or occupant, the energy absorber including a first part, a second part and an elongate deformable member secured to the first part and extending through a deforming arrangement carried by the second part, whereby said elongate deformable member normally acts as a tie between said first part and said second part but wherein the arrangement is such that, when the force acting between said first part and said second part in a predetermined direction exceeds a predetermined amount, said elongate deformable member is thereby forced progressively through said deforming arrangement as the distance between said first part and said second part changes and the deformable member is thereby forced to undergo plastic deformation, whereby energy is absorbed, and wherein said deforming arrangement is such as to effect such plastic deformation substantially without changing the material cross sectional area of the deformable member, and wherein said deforming arrangement includes a pair of rollers rotatable about respective axes transverse to the direction of elongation of the deformable member and wherein a flattened portion of said elongate deformable member extends between said rollers.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) An energy absorber for absorbing energy of a vehicle or component of a vehicle or occupant of the vehicle in a crash situation so as to allow relatively gradual deceleration of the vehicle, component or occupant, the energy absorber including a first part, a second part and an elongate deformable member secured to the first part and extending through a deforming arrangement carried by the second part, whereby said elongate deformable member normally acts as a tie between said first part and said second part but wherein the arrangement is such that, when the force acting between said first part and said second part in a predetermined direction exceeds a predetermined amount, said elongate deformable member is thereby forced progressively through said deforming arrangement as the distance between said first part and said second part changes and the deformable member is thereby forced to undergo plastic deformation, whereby energy is absorbed, and wherein said deforming arrangement is such as to effect such plastic deformation substantially without changing the material cross sectional area of the deformable member, wherein said deforming arrangement includes at least one roller, bearing on said elongate deformable member and rotatable about an axis transverse to the direction of elongation of the deformable member, and further includes an opposing member and wherein a flattened portion of said elongate deformable member extends between said roller and said opposing member, and wherein the spacing of said roller from said opposing member is adjustable to adjust the extent to which the elongate member is flattened in passing through said deforming arrangement and thus to adjust the rate of energy absorption in operation.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) An energy absorber for absorbing energy of a vehicle or component of a vehicle or occupant of the vehicle in a crash situation so as to allow relatively gradual deceleration of the vehicle, component or occupant, the energy absorber including a first part, a second part and an elongate deformable member secured to the first part and extending through a deforming arrangement carried by the second part, whereby said elongate deformable member normally acts as a tie between said first part and said second part but wherein the arrangement is such that, when the force acting between said first part and said second part in a predetermined direction exceeds a predetermined amount, said elongate deformable member is thereby forced progressively through said deforming arrangement as the distance between said first part and said second part changes and the deformable member is thereby forced to undergo plastic deformation, whereby energy is absorbed, and wherein said deforming arrangement is such as to effect such plastic deformation substantially without changing the material cross sectional area of the deformable member, wherein said deforming arrangement includes a pair of rollers rotatable about respective axes transverse to the direction of elongation of the deformable member and wherein a flattened portion of said elongate deformable member extends between said rollers, and wherein the spacing between said rollers is adjustable to adjust the extent to which the elongate member is flattened passing through said deforming arrangement and thus to adjust the rate of energy absorption in operation.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Cancelled)